

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An aspiration biopsy needle, comprising:
a needle of elongate, hollow construction having a proximal end and a beveled distal end;
said needle having a uniform diameter along its extent;
said beveled distal end forming a first sharp edge ~~that scrapes tissue~~ adapted to scrape cellular material when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position;
a first slot formed in said needle near said beveled distal end;
said first slot being transversely disposed relative to a longitudinal axis of said needle;
said first slot also being angled relative to a transverse axis of said needle such that a bottom of said first slot is positioned proximal to an opening of said first slot;
said opening of said first slot being in open communication with an exterior surface of said needle;
said first slot including a second sharp edge ~~that scrapes tissue~~ adapted to scrape cellular material when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position;
means for communicating a vacuum to said proximal end of said needle so that ~~tissue scraped~~ cellular material adapted to be scraped by said first sharp edge during proximal-to-distal travel of said needle is pulled into a lumen of said needle and so that ~~tissue-scraped cellular material adapted to be scraped~~ by said second sharp edge during said proximal-to-distal travel of said needle is also pulled into said lumen.
2. (original) The needle of claim 1, wherein said slot has a circumferential extent of about one half the circumference of said needle.
3. (currently amended) The needle of claim 1, wherein said second sharp edge is elevated with respect to ~~an~~ said exterior surface of said needle.
4. (original) The needle of claim 1, wherein said second sharp edge is recessed with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.
5. (currently amended) The needle of claim 1, further comprising a hinge ~~means~~ to which said second sharp edge is mounted to enable pivotal movement of said second sharp edge.

6. (currently amended) The needle of claim 1, wherein a material to which said tissue cellular material clings is applied to said first and second sharp edges.

7. (new) An aspiration biopsy needle, comprising:

a needle of elongate, hollow construction having a proximal end and a beveled distal end;
said needle having a uniform diameter along its extent;

said beveled distal end forming a first sharp edge adapted to scrape cellular material when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position;

a first slot formed in said needle near said beveled distal end;

said first slot being transversely disposed relative to a longitudinal axis of said needle;

said first slot also being angled relative to a transverse axis of said needle such that a bottom of said first slot is positioned proximal to an opening of said first slot;

said opening of said first slot being in open communication with an exterior surface of said needle;

said first slot including a second sharp edge adapted to scrape cellular material when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position;

means for communicating a vacuum to said proximal end of said needle so that cellular material adapted to be scraped by said first sharp edge during proximal-to-distal travel of said needle is pulled into a lumen of said needle and so that cellular material adapted to be scraped by said second sharp edge during said proximal-to-distal travel of said needle is also pulled into said lumen;

said second sharp edge being elevated with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.

8. (new) An aspiration biopsy needle, comprising:

a needle of elongate, hollow construction having a proximal end and a beveled distal end;
said needle having a uniform diameter along its extent;

said beveled distal end forming a first sharp edge adapted to scrape cellular material when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position;

a first slot formed in said needle near said beveled distal end;

said first slot being transversely disposed relative to a longitudinal axis of said needle;

said first slot also being angled relative to a transverse axis of said needle such that a bottom of said first slot is positioned proximal to an opening of said first slot;

said opening of said first slot being in open communication with an exterior surface of said needle;

said first slot including a second sharp edge adapted to scrape cellular material when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position;

means for communicating a vacuum to said proximal end of said needle so that cellular material adapted to be scraped by said first sharp edge during proximal-to-distal travel of said needle is pulled into a lumen of said needle and so that cellular material adapted to be scraped by said second sharp edge during said proximal-to-distal travel of said needle is also pulled into said lumen; and

a hinge to which said second sharp edge is mounted to enable pivotal movement of said second sharp edge.